Modernisation of infantry.

Enhancement of surveillance and electronic warfare capabilities.

Strengthening of integral air support.

Augmentation of night fighting capabilities.

Induction of force multipliers and introduction of computerised Command Control and Information Systems.

Purchase of floating dry dock by the Indian Navy

2282. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy has purchased a loading dock from M|s. Escorts Limited recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that no negotiations on the purchase of the floating dry dock were held with M|s. Escorts Limited;

(c) if so, how the price of $ 18 million has been paid to M|s. Escorts Limited; and

(d) whether the price of the floating dry dock has been paid in Indian currency or foreign currency and where?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Floating Dry Dock has been purchased after due negotiations, from M|s. Escorts Limited, India at a price of Rs. 10.9 crores, and the payments are to be made in Indian currency.

Escalation in foreign exchange expenditure on MBT

2283. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign exchange expenditure in the design and manufacture of prototype of Main Battle Tank (MBT) has escalated from about Rs. 4 crores to about Rs. 89 crores and even then, the 6 MTU engines from West Germany have proved incompatible;

(b) whether it is a fact that MTU's Indian representative and Head of M|s. Globe Tech. has said that the reason of engines' failure was that Indian order did not specify requirements suitable for Indian climatic conditions;

(c) what are the details in this regard; and

(d) upon whom the responsibility for the lapse has been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The upward revision of the project estimates was due to changes in qualitative requirements, increase in number of prototypes to be fabricated and manufacture of pre-production series tanks. The six MTU engines have been fitted on the prototypes which are under evaluation.

(b) and (c) The Agreement with MTU fully specifies the operating and technical requirement of the engines in Indian climatic conditions. There have been no engine failure so far.

(d) Does not arise.